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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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OLC 71-0573

June 26, 1971

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The unclassified attachment to this letter contains the information you requested on United States Government radio facilities in Europe. In forwarding this information to you I wish to take the opportunity to make the following observations.

In my statement to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on May 24, I reviewed the unique role which Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty fulfill in their respective reception areas. I also set out our views on the political reasons why the Voice of America could not take over and perform the services now performed by RFE and RL. In our judgment, those same political reasons apply to the American Forces Network, Europe (AFNE). In addition, AFNE has as its sole purpose under agreements with the governments concerned to broadcast to US military personnel.

I should like to mention here another important aspect of this matter, which is the licensing of RFE and RL. In the Federal Republic of Germany, both radios are licensed as corporate entities. If RFE and RL should cease to exist, their licenses would automatically expire. Neither the licenses nor the sites and facilities of RFE and RL are transferable to other organizations. Essentially the same situation exists in regard to the radios' sites and facilities in Spain and Portugal, although in these cases there is the further stipulation that, upon cessation of the existence of the radios, all of their facilities in Spain and almost all of those in Portugal should become the property of the host governments. The matter is further complicated in that, in view of the extreme crowding of

Honorable J. W. Fulbright, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate

State Dept. review completed

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the broadcast spectrum, it is questionable whether VOA would be able to acquire the use of the frequencies which RFE and RL have utilized for two decades.

It seems therefore necessary to maintain both radios as separate entities in order to retain their licenses and the use of their sites, facilities, and, possibly, their frequencies.

In regard to continuation of their existing licenses, it appears equally important that the radios maintain their corporate identity. In conversations with us, the Spaniards have stated and the Germans have stressed this point. We believe it would be difficult and probably impossible to obtain the agreement of the governments of the FRG or Spain for USG-operated radios (such as VOA or AFNE) to use facilities in Germany or Spain to provide the services now performed by RFE and RL.

I explained in my statement on May 24 the reasons why we feel that it is in the national interest to continue these services and why we believe that the proposed Bill to create the American Council for International Communications, Incorporated, would make this possible.

Sincerely yours,

Martin J. Hillenbrand
Assistant Secretary
for European Affairs

Enclosure:

1. Info on USG radio facilities

EUR/CHP:WJDyess/lva
6/25/71

Clearances:

EUR-Mr. Davies
EUR/CHP-Mr. Martin
EUR/GER-Mr. Skoug (in draft)
EUR/SPP-Mr. Briggs, Mr. Towell (in draft)
INR/DDC-Mr. Wellons (in draft)
USIA-Mr. Alexander (in draft)
VOA-Mr. Ronalds (in draft)
H-Mr. Leahy (in draft)
L-Mr. Burns (in draft)

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U.S. GOVERNMENT RADIO FACILITIES IN EUROPE

Attached are listings of the Europe-based transmitting facilities of: 1) the American Forces Network, Europe (AFNE); 2) RIAS (Radio in the American Sector of Berlin); 3) the Voice of America; 4) Radio Free Europe and 5) Radio Liberty. The listings indicate the location, the power in watts or kilowatts, the type (short-wave, medium-wave, long-wave, or FM), and the hours in use for each transmitter (for all except AFNE). The VOA listing includes facilities outside the European continent (U.S.A., Morocco, and Liberia) which are also being used to cover areas reached by RFE and RL, as well as those in Greece, Germany, and the U.K.*

By agreement with the host governments, the AFNE stations are authorized to broadcast for the sole purpose of reaching American troops.

With two possible exceptions, all of the AFNE facilities are of low power and could not be used to reach areas covered by RFE and RL. The two include the 150,000-watt medium-wave transmitter in Frankfurt/Weisskirchen and the 50,000-watt medium-wave transmitter in Munich. However, the antennas of these two high-powered stations were designed to maximize the signal in Western Germany and minimize the signal to the East.

RIAS has eight transmitters, of which six are in Berlin and two near Hof, in Northern Bavaria. Those in Berlin are: one medium-wave (MW) of 200,000 watts, one MW of 100,000 watts,

* VOA transmitters are sometimes used for purposes other than direct broadcast of VOA programs. There are feed services in Arabic and Greek, intended for the Arabic Program Center on Rhodes and for USIS in Athens, respectively. VOA also transmits the wireless file of USIA's International Press Service, e.g., the Middle East File. In certain countries, such as Greece and Morocco, agreements with the host governments call for a sharing of facilities. NBI is the Greek national radio. VOA also relays broadcasts of the United Nations radio, e.g., UN to Europe and the Middle East.

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another MW of 100,000 watts (of which the first two can be combined on a single frequency at 300,000 watts); two FM of 10,000 watts apiece; and one short-wave of 20,000 watts. None of these transmitters can reach effectively beyond East Germany. Of the transmitters located at Hof, one is a medium-wave of 40,000 watts, one an FM transmitter of 6,500 watts. Except for the border area near Hof, the effective coverage is limited to East Germany.

As may be seen from the data on VOA, the amount of time available on its facilities for broadcasting in the languages concerned is only a fraction of that available to RFE and RL.

Daily Transmitter Hours

	<u>VOA</u>	<u>RFE</u>	<u>RL</u>
In Eastern European languages	56½	547	-
In Soviet languages	135	-	266

Thus, RFE is on the air nearly ten times as many transmitter hours as VOA and RL nearly twice as many. (Also, while VOA broadcasts in all of the six languages of RFE, it carries only four of the eighteen languages of RL.) With its facilities, there is no way that VOA transmitters could carry more than a small percentage of RFE/RL broadcasts into the reception areas concerned at desirable times except by a significant reduction of broadcasts in other languages and to other reception areas elsewhere in the world.

The agreements by which the different stations broadcast are as follows:

The American Forces Network, Europe broadcasts by agreement with the host governments.

VOA broadcasts in accordance with bilateral agreements between the USC and the host governments, with the exception of the U.K., which is by contract with the British Broadcasting Corporation.

For RIAS, the rights to the Berlin facilities are by virtue of the U.S. occupation and the operation is by a joint arrangement with the government of the FRG. The Hof facilities

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are operated in accordance with a bilateral agreement with the FRG government.

In Germany, RFE operates by license from the FRG Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications to Free Europe, Inc. In Portugal, a Portuguese corporation, the Sociedade Anonima de Radio Retransmissao, acts on behalf of RFE in procuring the license from the Portuguese Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration.

RL in Germany operates by license from the FRG Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications to the Radio Liberty Committee, Inc. In Spain, the agreement is between the Radio Liberty Committee, Inc., and the Spanish Ministry of Information and Tourism.

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